

# THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter

June 2025

## SUMMER SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

June 16 -19



Come for four meaningful mornings of connection, story, and song **June 16 through 19** in the Celtic Cross Room.

Each day includes music, interactive activities, and inspiring reflections. Pastor Mac and Pastor Becca will share (with pictures) from their times spent in sacred spaces that make scripture come alive for them.

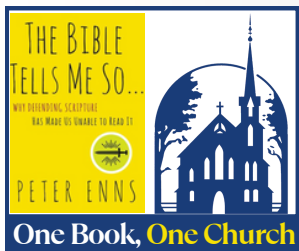
*What is it like to read the Apostle Paul's words while standing on the Areopagus in Greece? At what point might a perspective change while reading the words of St. James on the Camino?*

We will meet each morning (Monday-Thursday) from 9:00 to 11:00 am. On Thursday, we invite you to stay for lunch and fellowship at the close of the program. Salad and fried chicken will be provided.

The program fee of \$20 will be collected when you arrive on Monday.

Our mission focus throughout the week will be Immigrant Rights Action: Legal Aid Services here in Doylestown.

Visit [www.dtownpc.org/avbs](http://www.dtownpc.org/avbs) or **[CLICK HERE](#)** to SIGN UP TODAY!



This summer, DPC's Growth Groups will be reading *The Bible Tells Me So...* by noted biblical scholar, professor, and author Peter Enns in anticipation of his visit here on Sunday, **September 14.**



As a longtime admirer of Peter's work and his unique perspective on Scripture, Pastor Becca Bateman offers her own personal insight on **pages 2-3** in this newsletter. Join in as we grow together!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND...

- An update from Pastor Mac who offers details of his Service of Installation - **Page 5**
- Details about a new class that aims to deepen understanding of worship through song with Mina Choi - **Page 6**
- An opportunity to donate items that will benefit those in need while spreading hope - **Page 7**

...and so much more!

# A Letter from Pastor Becca

## Falling in Love with the Bible (Again)

### *An Invitation to Read Together*

I've loved the Bible for a long time, but not always in the same way. I had the gift of growing up in a church that valued deep Christian formation. Sunday School was more than crafts and cookies (though those helped!); it was a place where we learned that Scripture matters. I carried that foundation with me into some very formative years when my relationship with the Bible started to stretch and change. Attending a Lutheran middle school and then a Catholic high school opened me up to new perspectives. I was introduced to religion classes that took Scripture seriously, but also taught it historically, critically, reverently, and, maybe most importantly, curiously.

I remember being drawn in by all the different ways people approached the Bible. Some sermons or readings I heard left me in awe. Others confused me. Some temporarily sidetracked by imaginative Catholic conspiracies made for thrilling page turners (anyone else read Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*?). I found myself wanting to dig deeper. Wanting more than either a rigid reading or a sensational one.

A few years ago, I picked up Peter Enns' book ***The Bible Tells Me So***. Here was someone who had studied deeply, questioned honestly, and still loved the Bible, maybe more because of the questions, not in spite of them.

Peter Enns doesn't write dry theology. He's a biblical scholar, yes, but also a deeply funny and accessible guide. His book is full of charm and clarity. He doesn't hide from the hard parts of the Bible, he enters into them with humility and humor. I found myself underlining half the book and laughing out loud during the other half. At my then church position, I was also the staff liaison for small groups. I organized a few groups to also read the book and I loved the dialogue and curiosity that developed into conversations with each other. We talked about our upbringings, our faith traditions, other churches we learned things from, scriptures we took to heart, scriptures we were confused about, what we had picked up and left behind in our long faithful spiritual journeys.

It was beautiful. It was community building.

It helped us all see that engaging Scripture faithfully doesn't mean having all the answers. Sometimes it means learning how to live with the questions. Or seeing how the Bible, in all its ancient context and human voices, still points us to something bigger, Someone bigger.

*"A super-enjoyable, highly informative, disarmingly honest, and downright liberating book."*

**-BRIAN MCLAREN,**  
author of *A New Kind of Christianity*

Continued on next page...

When I realized Peter Enns lives nearby, I knew we had to seize the moment. We're thrilled to share that Peter Enns will be preaching at **Doylestown Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 14 during 9:30 worship**. He will also lead a dialog and Q & A following the service as we gather for lunch. Before that day comes, we thought, what better way to prepare than by reading one of his books together?

We're launching a churchwide initiative called **One Book, One Church**, and you're invited to join in. Growth Groups of all kinds and sizes will be reading ***The Bible Tells Me So*** over the summer. If a Growth Group doesn't work for you, you can read it on your own or with a friend.

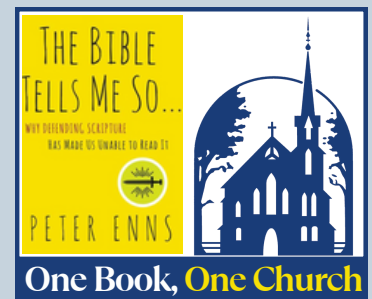
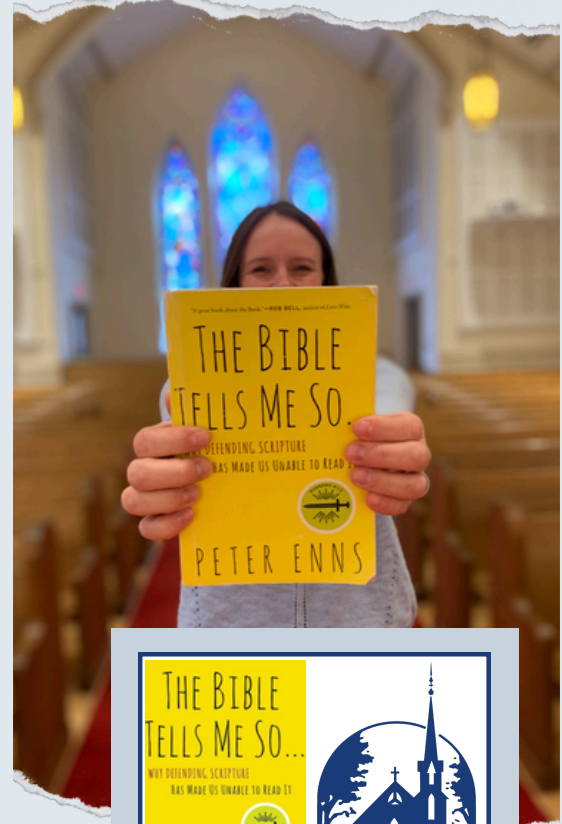
Peter challenges the way we've sometimes been taught to read the Bible—especially the idea that we must read it “literally” in every part. Instead, he offers context to Scripture that honors its ancient roots, celebrates its human voices, and invites us to trust the living God it points to.

The book's style is conversational and easy to follow, broken into short sections that are perfect for group discussion. And while it's serious about Scripture, it's also deeply pastoral in its tone, especially for anyone who's ever felt like they were losing their grip on faith because of the Bible's complexities.

I hope you'll come along, wrestle with us, laugh with us, and maybe fall in love with the Bible all over again.

Let's grow together.

*Bella*



#### ***The Bible Tells Me So...***

is widely available through all major online booksellers, likely at your own local bookstore or library, and audiobook. We encourage you to pick up a copy as we build excitement for Peter's inspiring visit with us. Read along on your own and keep watch for touchpoints in worship throughout the summer...

**Or join in a Growth Group to read and discuss with church members and friends.**

Groups will meet on various days and times.

**CLICK  
HERE**

to check out the list of groups or visit [bit.ly/DPCGG2025](http://bit.ly/DPCGG2025)

**See which group fits you best and sign up today!**



## SAVE <sup>THE</sup> DATE

DPC welcomes biblical scholar, author, professor, podcaster Peter Enns on **Sunday, September 14**

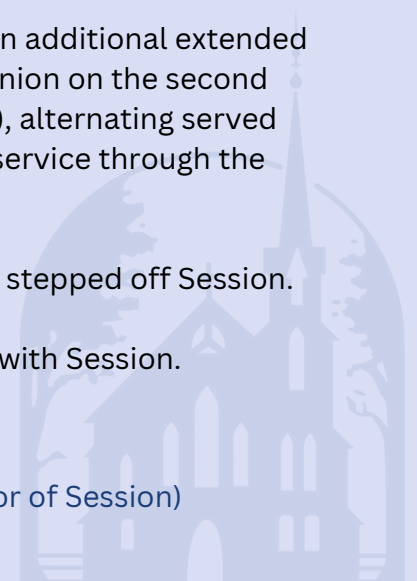
To learn more about Peter, visit his website at [www.thebiblefornormalpeople.com/about-pete-enns](http://www.thebiblefornormalpeople.com/about-pete-enns)

## May Session Update

Session had their stated meeting on Monday, May 19. At that meeting the following occurred:

- A “potluck” dinner celebrating the outgoing class of 2025 and welcoming the class of 2028.
- The session heard a report from Pastor Mac on a review of the new committee structure at DPC. Pastor Mac had four feedback meetings with standing committee chairs, sub-committee chairs (2) and staff. Session adopted the following recommendations, based on his report: 1. Give the present structure more time to mature and be implemented, 2. Elders/Staff/Sub-Committee chairs work on improving areas listed under Pastor Mac's Report titled "Needs/Improvements" or “Confusion, 3. Makes sure standing committees include moderators of sub-committees and that summer/fall expectations meetings take place.
- Session is recommending to the congregation the following elders be corporate officers for 2025-26 year:
  - President- Frank Fabian,
  - Vice-President- George Segelken,
  - Secretary- Linda Cacossa.
- Received the 2023 & 2024 Auditor Reports.
- Session approved a 2.4% lease increase for Building Blocks Learning Center (BBLC) and Jazzercise beginning in September for BBLC and July for Jazzercise.
- Approved Mission and Justice Standing Committee request that the DPC portion of the Pentecostal offering in June go to the Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan with funds designated for scholarships.
- Session approved the Worship, Music & the Arts request to add an additional extended communion for July 13th, Scottish Communion, monthly communion on the second Sunday of the month beginning July 2025 (with some exceptions), alternating served and intinction, and serving communion by intinction at the 8:30 service through the four weeks of Advent.
- Thanked Julie McCormack for her two years of service as she has stepped off Session.
- The class of 2025 elders had an opportunity to share final words with Session.

-- Linda Cacossa (Clerk of Session) & Mac Schafer (Pastor & Moderator of Session)





## Looking ahead to Pastor Mac's *Service of Installation*



Friends, for the first few weeks in June I will be with my daughter Tory, walking on the Camino Frances (aka the Camino de Santiago) in Northern Spain. I'm looking forward to sharing this time with her on this ancient pilgrims path. She is fresh off college graduation (Elon University) and it is a joy to get one on one time with her at this important threshold of life.

I want to extend an invitation to a special **Service of Installation** here at DPC when I get installed as your pastor. It's **Sunday, June 29th at 3 pm** in DPC Sanctuary.

This is a service of the Presbytery of Philadelphia and elders/ministers from various congregations in the larger Philadelphia area will be represented.

The Reverend Dr. Lisa Hebacker will be the preacher. She is a long time friend and colleague from North Raleigh Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC. Also participating, the Reverend Ruth Santana-Grace, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia (and former PC(USA) General Assembly moderator), Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia Sarah Cooper Searight of Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, and former Executive Presbyter from the Presbytery of New Hope (in NC), the Reverend Ted Churn.

Also, of special note, The Reverend Dr. David Irwin and Maureen Irwin are coming over from Northern Ireland for the installation. Katy & I interned at the Irwin's Church (McCracken Memorial Presbyterian Church in Belfast) in the late 1990s. This will most likely be the last trip they'll make to the United States. They both taught us a great deal about the love of God, ministry in a local congregation and the art of hospitality.

Our Book of Common Worship says, "Occasions of ordination and installation have to do more with the ministry of the whole church than with any individual. Those ordained and installed to ordered ministry fulfill a particular role in the larger ministry of the church."

This service is a celebration of our shared calling!

Special thanks, in advance, to all the DPC members and staff who are helping make this service happen!

With Care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mac".

## Pastor Mac's *Service of Installation*

*The Presbytery of Philadelphia and the Session and Congregation of  
Doylestown Presbyterian Church joyfully request the honor  
of your presence at the Service of Installation  
of The Reverend Dr. MacHenry G. Schafer II  
as Pastor and Head of Staff*

**Sunday, June 29, 2025  
at three o'clock in the afternoon.**

# WHAT'S *happening* AT



**Pentecost Offering.** The DPC portion of the Pentecostal offering in June will go to the Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan with funds designated for scholarships. The offering will be collected in worship on **June 8** with [online designations](#) available throughout the month.



**Juneteenth.** DPC and the Matthew 25 Subcommittee are once again proud to sponsor this wonderful community gathering outside the Mercer Museum on **June 14 from 12 to 3 pm.** This event commemorates the anniversary of the date in 1865, when the last enslaved people in the United States learned that they had been freed. We will celebrate this occasion with speakers, a DJ, food trucks, vendors and artisans, and family-friendly crafts and activities. The event is free to the public and will be held rain or shine. We encourage you to experience this unique time of unity and learning together!



**Doylestown Pride Festival Block Party.** The Peace and Justice Subcommittee once again sponsors DPC's presence at the event on **June 21** as we join with other local bodies of faith. Be sure to stop by our booth along East State Street from 11 am to 4 pm!



**Sing with Purpose.** This class led by DPC Organist Rev. Dr. Mina Choi introduces a 4-week curriculum designed for music ministry, focusing on integrating musical leadership with spiritual formation to enhance congregational worship. The goal is to deepen the understanding of worship through song, encouraging participants to view their singing as ministry rather than performance, and to explore worshipping "in Spirit and in Truth" (John 4:23-24). The curriculum includes guided discussions around key questions like "Why do we worship corporately?" and "What does it mean to worship God in Spirit and in Truth?" The class will meet in the music room in the sanctuary building following 9:30 am worship on **June 22, June 29, July 6, and July 13.** No RSVP needed.



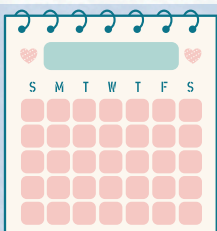
**Feed My Starving Children.** There are still 10 spots left if you want to join the amazing crew already on board to combat global hunger through Feed My Starving Children's exciting meal packing event! We meet at Delaware Valley University on Sunday, June 8, from 12 to 2 pm. Visit [bit.ly/DPC-FMSC](http://bit.ly/DPC-FMSC) to save your spot today for this one of a kind, high energy experience! If you are unable to perform jobs that require standing or moving around, there are still fun tasks that allow you to be sitting. Just let the organizers know when you arrive.



DPC's monthly **Food Drive** occurs on **June 15**, from 9:15 to 11 am to help stock the shelves of the Doylestown Food Pantry. Following the later worship service, also on **June 15**, we join together at 11 am in Fellowship Hall for our monthly Community Meal with our homeless guests. If you'd like to get involved, just click [bit.ly/DPC-CM](http://bit.ly/DPC-CM) to sign up to volunteer—or just plan to stop by for lunch!

## Also save the dates for...

- **Scottish Communion:** on **July 13**
- A **Fall Retreat** at Spruce Lake, **October 6-8.**
- A bus trip to experience "**Noah**" at **Sight & Sound Theatre** in Lancaster, **November 6.**





## Pastor Becca @ **PRINCETON**

In May I traveled to the holy ground of Princeton Theological Seminary to join her cohort in Iron Sharpening Iron, a 12-month executive leadership program designed specifically for women in ministry. The program is highly selective with 21 women per cohort. During our time we will sit in lectures, be guided through activities, and be divided up further into discussion groups to draw on the wisdom of leaders from the church, public service, business, and academia. The goal? To help women thrive in God's calling with both theological integrity and practical leadership savvy.

Now, let's be real for a second: I love my male clergy colleagues, truly! Some of my best ministry partners are men. *And...* it's refreshing to be in a space that centers women's voices. Ministry looks different from this angle, and there's a unique kind of clarity, courage, and communal care that women bring to church leadership. It was a gift to learn from and alongside such capable, grounded women.



Some highlights? We spent time testing for and reflecting on personal strengths that we carry on a team (not just the ones we feel obligated or chameleon to have), and how to lift up the gifts others bring too. We talked about habits the church has, some beautiful, some... well, they might need a funeral. Then next steps in how to lead change with grace. One professor walked us through how habits are formed, how they can be reset, and how we can help our congregations embrace the new without throwing out the sacred.

I was placed in a group of fellow associate pastors because, as anyone who's ever led from the second chair knows, it's its own sacred calling. We share a unique place in leadership. It takes wisdom, creativity, teamwork and a good dose of holy humor. This experience is equipping me to better serve you the congregation I love, by strengthening my leadership, sharpening my awareness, and deepening my call. I hope you'll see this as more than just a professional development opportunity. It's an investment in our shared life and in the flourishing of the church for years to come.

You can learn more about the program at [isi.ptsem.edu](http://isi.ptsem.edu).

*Becca*

**DPC Youth Trip Hope Bags.** As the DPC youth and leaders get ready to head to their mission trip in Raleigh, NC, in June, you are invited to help fill the vans for a Hope Bag offering. The Hope bag offerings will go to an Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women, whose mission is to build bridges of hope for women in prison before and after release through chaplaincy services, transitional programs, reentry support and community engagement. The group will travel down with this offering and hand deliver them. If you are able to donate any of the items in the box below (regular sized item, please) there will be a box labeled "Hope Bag Donations" in the office lobby area. Please deliver the items by **Friday, June 20**. Thank you in advance for your support of the youth and also those who will benefit from this offering.



### Needed Items

- Blankets
- Socks
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Lotion
- \*Shower Gel/Body Wash
- \*Deodorant,
- Shampoo,
- Conditioner,
- Daily Planners,
- Journals,
- Pens,
- Encouraging Notes/Greeting Cards.
- \*most needed items

# INQUIRERS' CLASS

Are you or someone you know interested in exploring membership at Doylestown Presbyterian Church?

## Join an Inquirers' Class!

Faith is a journey. No matter where you are on that journey – whether you are new to the Christian faith, seeking to make discoveries and ask questions, or are simply looking for a new faith community – we invite you to participate in our Inquirers' Class.



In this class, you will learn about the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the core values and ministries of DPC, connect with church leaders and other Inquirers, and reflect on your own spiritual journey. **The next session occurs June 22, with new members joining on June 29.** Additional classes are scheduled for September and November. Registration for any of these sessions is now open!

Visit [www.dtownpc.org/membership](http://www.dtownpc.org/membership) to learn more and to sign up today!



## DPC's Summer Camp happens July 7-11!

Sign your kids up today for the awesome and enriching VBS program in the morning! And, back by popular demand, older kids can also join in for ActingUP music and drama camp in the afternoon.

For more information and to sign up today, visit [www.dtownpc.org/summercamp2025](http://www.dtownpc.org/summercamp2025)

## MEMORIAL DAY @ DOYLESTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It was another amazing day of connecting with the community - having fun, making memories, and serving nearly 1,000 hotdogs and snacks! Enjoy this small sample of photos from Tanner and Andy Benson. Many more can be seen on our Facebook page [@dtownpc](https://www.facebook.com/dtownpc)!



# Ministry in Motion!

187 bags of groceries containing nearly TWO TONS of food were filled by area residents and collected by the Doylestown Food Pantry operated by the Bucks County Housing Group during DPC's second Community Food Collection! Thank you to all the DPC volunteers who dropped off empty bags and to the volunteers who picked up the bags two days later!



The sign near the DPC parking lot along Church Street got a makeover by the Earth Care Group who spent a recent Saturday planting native species of plants - which are crucial for a healthy ecosystem and biodiversity!



The striking tradition of the laying on of hands continued as DPC's newest Deacons and Elders were ordained and installed.



On Youth Sunday, the youth led worship, we honored our graduates, welcomed our confirmands as new members of the church, and wrote on rocks answering the question "What Grounds You?"



*Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love*

